

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-13
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 XMB-02 NSC-05
STR-04 /068 R

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APPROVED BY EA/ROC:BLEVIN
EB/TD - A. FREEMAN
E - L. ROSS

-----080820Z 108666 /12

R 080143Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
INFO USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 131672

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, EFIN, ETEL, TW, CH

SUBJECT:ROC AMBASSADOR CALLS ON UNDERSECRETARY FOR
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, RICHARD COOPER

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON UNDERSECRETARY COOPER, JUNE 6,
ROC AMBASSADOR JAMES SHEN AND ECONOMIC MINISTER MARTIN
WONG, REVIEWED ROC POSITION IN IMF, IBRD AND ADB AND
SAID THEY DO NOT EXPECT PRC TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP IN THESE
IFIS. COOPER EXPECTED THAT IMF MEMBERS' OBLIGATIONS TO
DIVULGE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DATA WOULD PROBABLY CURB
PRC INTEREST IN EARLY IMF MEMBERSHIP.

2. THE CHINESE RE-EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESS TO
INTELSAT AND HOPED THE US COULD SOMEHOW RESTRAIN ASTRAIN,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTELSAT, FROM ENCOURAGING PRC MEMBER-
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SHIP. THEY REPEATED ROC CONCERNS ABOUT PRC MEMBERSHIP
AND THE DANGER THIS POSES FOR TAIWAN'S ACCESS. (SEE PARA
7 BELOW) WONG SAID A PLANNED SUBMARINE CABLE, LINKING
TAIWAN TO GUAM, IS EXPECTED TO REDUCE TAIWAN DEPENDENCE
ON THE INTELSAT SYSTEM BY 1980.

3. SHEN NOTED THAT ROC IS ONE OF EXIMBANK'S MAJOR CUSTO-

MERS; ALTHOUGH THE ROC HAS A GOOD INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL RATING, EXIMBANK PARTICIPATION IN FINANCING OF MAJOR PRO-

JECTS, HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL. EXPORT BANKS OF JAPAN AND EUROPE OFTEN OFFER BETTER TERMS, BUT THE ROC WANTS TO BALANCE ITS BILATERAL TRADE WITH US AND ROC HOPES EXIM WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST US EXPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE.

4. COOPER THANKED SHEN FOR GROC COOPERATION IN THE RECENT ORDERLY MARKETING AGREEMENT ON FOOTWEAR. HE ALSO ASKED IF TAIWAN HAS DIFFICULTY EXPORTING TO JAPAN. WONG RESPONDED THAT JAPAN RESTRAINS IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN BUT USES QUOTAS AND METHODS WHICH DO NOT USUALLY ELICIT PROTEST FROM GATT. WONG ALSO SAID THAT JAPANESE INVESTMENTS IN TAIWAN ARE NORMALLY IN SMALL AMOUNTS, CONCENTRATING ON THE USE OF CHEAPER TAIWAN LABOR FOR PRODUCTION OF GOODS TO BE EXPORTED TO THE US.

5. IN RESPONDING TO COOPER'S QUESTION ON THE ROC PERCEPTION OF ITS ROLE WITH LDCS, THE CHINESE RESPONDED THAT THEIR POSITIONS ON MANY ISSUES ARE MORE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES RATHER THAN LDCS.

6. IN CONCLUSION, AMBASSADOR SHEN HOPED THAT UNDER-SECRETARY COOPER COULD VISIT TAIWAN SOON. COOPER RESPONDED THAT HE DOES PLAN A VISIT TO MANILA IN THE FALL.

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7. ON JUNE 1, MINISTER WONG CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, JOEL BILLER, TO EXPRESS ROC CONCERNS ABOUT INTELSAT DIRECTOR GENERAL ASTRAIN'S RECENT VISIT TO THE PRC AND POSSIBILITY OF EARLY PRC MEMBERSHIP IN INTELSAT WHICH ASTRAIN HAS REPORTED. WONG POINTED OUT THAT CONTINUED ACCESS TO INTELSAT SYSTEM WOULD BE CRITICAL TO TAIWAN UNTIL AN UNDERWATER CABLE BETWEEN TAIWAN AND GUAM, PLANNED BY TAIWAN'S INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND AT&T, WAS IN PLACE. BILLER SAID HE BELIEVED THE PRC INTEREST IN INTELSAT PREDATED ASTRAIN'S TRIP, AND HE REITERATED OUR POLICY TO SEEK TO ENSURE CONTINUED ROC ACCESS TO INTELSAT SYSTEM. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, DEVELOPMENT BANKS, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE131672
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HAENGELBRECHT:ARCKC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770203-1169
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770677/aaaacpvt.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f779a182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2226861
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROC AMBASSADOR CALLS ON UNDERSECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, RICHARD COOPER
TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, ETEL, TW, CH, ADB, IBRD, IMF, INTELSAT, (SHEN, JAMES), (WONG, MARTIN)
To: TAIPEI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f779a182-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009